REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been examined and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been withdrawn. Hence, claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,177,729 to Muramatsu et al. (hereinafter "Muramatsu") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0048725 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee"). Applicants submit that the claims are patentable and respectfully traverse the rejections.

For example, claim 1 recites a demodulator which performs demodulation processing on a read signal read from a recording medium corresponding to each of at least two modulation schemes to generate an address data signal for each demodulation processing. An address output part selectively outputs a corrected address data signal corresponding to the address data signal having the lowest error ratio as a reproduced address.

Muramatsu is directed to a reproducing apparatus which reads out the same signal two times and selectively outputs the more preferable signal (col. 4, lines 12-15). The apparatus comprises an optical disk 1 which is scanned by an optical pickup 3 to read out the signal. A first read signal R1 is fed along circuit path ROUT 1 to a first modulation circuit 7 and a second read signal R2 is fed along circuit path ROUT 2 to a second modulation circuit 8, where EFM demodulation is performed on the respective signals. Error correction is performed on the

signals which are then fed to a comparing and selecting circuit 13 which outputs the more preferable signal.

The Examiner contends that Muramatsu's demodulation circuits 7 and 8 correspond to the claimed demodulator and that Muramatsu's comparing and selecting circuit 13 corresponds to the claimed address output part. The Examiner acknowledges that Muramatsu does not disclose that the data signal is an address data and that the address data is modulated using different modulation schemes, and cites Lee to supply these deficiencies.

Lee is directed to an apparatus for reproducing header information on an optical disk 900. A reading unit 91 reads a header signal from the optical disk 900, and a multi-demodulator 92 demodulates the header signal in a first, second, and third demodulator 101, 102, 103 each using a different demodulation scheme. The header information obtained from the resulting demodulations are synthesized by a header information synthesizer 93 to reproduce the header information.

The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Muramatsu's apparatus with the address demodulators that correspond to different modulation schemes as taught by Lee. Applicants respectfully disagree. Muramatsu's apparatus chooses one of the same signal read out twice as reproduced data from an optical disc (col. 1, lines 22-26 and col. 4, lines 12-15). On the other hand, Lee requires that the header information obtained from each of the first, second, and third demodulators 101, 102, and 103 are synthesized in order to reproduce the header information (paragraph 55). Thus, Muaramatsu's teaching of reproducing data by *choosing one* signal output from demodulators 7 and 8 teaches away from Lee's teaching of reproducing header information by *synthesizing* outputs from demodulators 101, 102, and 103.

Moreover, because Lee's header information is formed by synthesizing the outputs of demodulators 101, 102, and 103, the demodulated data output by the demodulators 101, 102, and 103 each represent a *partial portion* of the header information to be reproduced. Thus, if the references were to be combined as asserted by the Examiner, Lee's demodulators 101 and 102 would replace Muramatsu's demodulators 7 and 8, and the information output from each of the demodulators 101 and 102 would be *partial* header information. Thus, Muramatsu's comparing and selecting circuit 13 would choose incomplete information as the reproduced signal. This would render Muramatsu's apparatus unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of reproducing information read from a recording medium.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Lee and Muramatsu as asserted by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Because claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, Applicants submit that the claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claim 5 contain features analogous to those discussed above in conjunction with claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that the claim is patentable at least for reasons analogous to those discussed above regarding claim 1.

Because claim 6 is dependent on claim 5, Applicants submit that the claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to

the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time, if necessary. Unless a check

is attached, any fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing

System, or if not paid through EFS, the USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required

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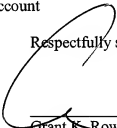also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account

Respectfully submitted,

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